



OFFICE OF THE BOARD OF HEALTH

Town of Arlington

27 Maple Street
Arlington, Massachusetts 02476

Christine M. Connolly
Director of Public Health

Tel: 781 316-3170
Fax: 781 316-3175

**Board of Health Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, September 20, 2005
First Floor Conference Room
Senior Center
4:00pm**

Board Members in Attendance: Dr. Carole Allen, Mr. Gregory Leonardos (Chair) and Dr. Michael Fitzpatrick

Staff in Attendance: Christine Connolly, Director of Public Health, Denise Boucher, Health Inspector, Mary Ann Jacobs, Department Secretary

- I The minutes of August 9, 2005 were accepted once two grammatical corrections had been noted.
- IV **DISCUSSION: Emergency Preparedness table-top exercise**
It was agreed to start the meeting with agenda item IV. Denise Boucher reported on the Emergency Preparedness exercise that had occurred earlier in the day. Boucher reported that, BowMac, a consulting firm was conducting a two-day emergency drill for the town. The first half of the morning was a training for all participants on how to manage a large scale incident. All departments in town were represented as well as private agencies such as Armstrong Ambulance, Housing Authority and the Boy's Club. Christine Connolly reported to the Board that the drill was a good practice for the various agencies to learn how they work together to respond to an event.
- V **HEARING: Jason Cheng Massage, 279 Massachusetts Avenue**
At the request of Christine Connolly, Item V was the next item to be discussed. Jason Cheng, owner of the massage establishment was present at the meeting. Connolly reported that she had received information that there may be un-permitted massage practitioners operating at the establishment. Upon investigation by Connolly, along with Joseph Carabello, Inspector, it was determined that there was one un-permitted practitioner at the time of the investigation. Mr. Cheng was very upset at what had happened at his establishment and said he had no knowledge of the ads in the paper and was unaware that one of the women was not a licensed massage therapist. His objective in renting the space to them was for the sole purpose of splitting the cost of the monthly rent. He apologized, and asked that his establishment be allowed to reopen. The recommendation made by Christine Connolly was that he be allowed to re-open his establishment with the understanding that any future violations would automatically result in permanent closure. A copy of his letter of apology is on file. The Board unanimously voted to re-instate the permit to operate.

II DISCUSSION: Well Driller Regulations

There is no action to be taken on regulations for well drilling until the different town departments come together with input for what they see as necessary to be carried out. A draft application was included in the materials given to the board.

III DISCUSSION: Mutual Aid

The Massachusetts Department of Public Health is requiring mutual aid to be part of the emergency preparedness funding for neighboring communities to share resources such as nurses, staff, equipment, etc. Arlington has been invited to join the first mutual aid agreement with health departments in the state and will become part of a mutual aid group with Belmont, Watertown, Newton and Brookline. This agreement would have to be approved by the spring Town Meeting before being activated.

VI PUBLIC COMMENT

In reference to the memo sent to the Recreation Director and the School Department regarding West Nile Virus and Eastern Equine Encephalitis, Christine Connolly met with communities in the area including Watertown, Brookline, Newton, Cambridge, Somerville and Boston to discuss plans to ensure that all communities are proceeding in the same manner. The Town of Arlington is not spraying pesticide to control adult mosquito populations at this time, Connolly reported that the Eastern Middlesex Mosquito Control Program will continue to survey the catch basins to watch for mosquito larval growth. There have been two cases of West Nile Virus in birds, one in Cambridge and one in Lexington. Some communities have stopped sports altogether while others have stopped them in the evenings. However, at the meeting with the communities, Connolly reported that, it had been decided that exercising and being outside is important for kids and at this time, is not necessary to prohibit outdoor activity at this time.

VII. A Flu Clinic for persons over 60 years of age will be held on Thursday, November 17, 2005, at the Recreation Center on Summer Street. The department will set up appointments for the clinic to avoid any long waiting lines. Arlington will receive 1,000 doses of flu vaccine.

The next Board Meeting will be held on November 8, 2005 at 5:00 pm.

Meeting adjourned